

ribonucleotide, a 2'-C₂H₅ ribonucleotide, a 2'-CH=CH₂ ribonucleotide or a 2'-C≡CH ribonucleotide.

11. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-SCH₃ ribonucleotide, a 2'-NH₂ ribonucleotide a 2'-NH(C₁-C₂ alkyl) ribonucleotide, a 2'-N(C₁-C₂ alkyl)₂ ribonucleotide or a 2'-CH₃ ribonucleotide.

12. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-SCH₃ ribonucleotide, a 2'-NH₂ ribonucleotide or a 2'-CH₃ ribonucleotide.

13. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion is a 2'-SCH₃ ribonucleotide.

14. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-CN arabinonucleotide, a 2'-F arabinonucleotide, a 2'-Cl arabinonucleotide, a 2'-Br arabinonucleotide, a 2'-N₃ arabinonucleotide, a 2'-OH arabinonucleotide, a 2'-O-CH₃ arabinonucleotide or a 2'-dehydro-2'-CH₃ arabinonucleotide.

15. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-F arabinonucleotide, a 2'-OH arabinonucleotide or a 2'-O-CH₃ arabinonucleotide.

16. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-F arabinonucleotide or a 2'-OH arabinonucleotide.

17. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion is a 2'-F arabinonucleotide.

18. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-SCH₃ ribonucleotide, a 2'-NH₂ ribonucleotide a 2'-NH(C₁-C₂ alkyl) ribonucleotide, a 2'-N(C₁-C₂ alkyl)₂ ribonucleotide, a 2'-CH₃ ribonucleotide, a 2'-CH=CH₂ ribonucleotide or a 2'-C≡CH ribonucleotide; and

each nucleotide of said further portion, independently, is a 2'-F ribonucleotide, a 2'-O-(C₁-C₆ alkyl) ribonucleotide, or a 2'-O-(C₁-C₆ substituted alkyl) ribonucleotide wherein the substitution is C₁-C₆ ether, C₁-C₆ thioether, amino, amino(C₁-C₆ alkyl) or amino(C₁-C₆ alkyl)₂.

19. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-CN arabinonucleotide, a 2'-F arabinonucleotide, a 2'-Cl arabinonucleotide, a 2'-Br arabinonucleotide, a 2'-N₃ arabinonucleotide, a 2'-OH arabinonucleotide, a 2'-O-CH₃ arabinonucleotide or a 2'-dehydro-2'-CH₃ arabinonucleotide; and

each nucleotide of said further portion, independently, is a 2'-F ribonucleotide, a 2'-O-(C₁-C₆ alkyl) ribonucleotide, or a 2'-O-(C₁-C₆ substituted alkyl) ribonucleotide wherein the substitution is C₁-C₆ ether, C₁-C₆ thioether, amino, amino(C₁-C₆ alkyl) or amino(C₁-C₆ alkyl)₂.

20. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-F arabinonucleotide or a 2'-OH arabinonucleotide; and

each nucleotide of said further portion is a 2'-O-(C₁-C₆ substituted alkyl) ribonucleotide wherein the substitution is C₁-C₆ ether, C₁-C₆ thioether, amino, amino(C₁-C₆ alkyl) or amino(C₁-C₆ alkyl)₂.

21. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein said further portion comprises at least two nucleotides joined together in a continuous sequence that is positioned at the 3' terminus end of said oligonucleotide.

22. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein said further portion comprises at least two nucleotides joined together in a continuous sequence that is positioned at the 5' terminus of said oligonucleotide.

23. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein said further portion comprises at least two nucleotides joined together in a continuous sequence that is positioned at the 3' terminus of said oligonucleotide; and

at least two nucleotides joined together in a continuous sequence that is positioned at the 5' terminus of said oligonucleotide.

24. The oligonucleotide of claim 21 wherein said at least two nucleotides joined together comprise nucleotides joined together by a 2'-5' phosphodiester linkage, a 3'-methylenephosphonate linkage, a Sp phosphorothioate linkage, a methylene(methylimino) linkage, a dimethylhydrazino linkage, a 3'-deoxy-3'-amino phosphoroamidate linkage, an amide 3 linkage or an amide 4 linkage.

25. The oligonucleotide of claim 24 wherein said two nucleotides are joined together by a 2'-5' phosphodiester linkage, a 3'-methylenephosphonate linkage, a Sp phosphorothioate linkage or a methylene(methylimino) linkage.

26. The oligonucleotide of claim 22 wherein said at least two nucleotides joined together comprise nucleotides joined together by a 2'-5' phosphodiester linkage, a 3'-methylenephosphonate linkage, a Sp phosphorothioate linkage, a methylene(methylimino) linkage, a dimethylhydrazino linkage, a 3'-deoxy-3'-amino phosphoroamidate linkage, an amide 3 linkage or an amide 4 linkage.